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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) to (c) No, Sir.

" (d) The question does not arise."

Strike in the Neiveli Lignite Mines Project.

* 410 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any strike towards the end of January 1954 in the Neiveli Lignite Mines Project; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) Yes, Sir. There was a partial strike in the quarry of the Lignite Investigation Project at Neiveli on 30th January 1954.

" (b) At about 5 a.m. on 30th January 1954 there was a Tournapull-Euclid accident in the quarry. One Shanmugham, a trainee, was responsible for the accident. The Officer-in-charge, Lignite Investigation, took Shanmugham to task and handed him over to the Security guards. This provoked some of the South Indian Labourers who wanted the trainee to be released. As the Officer-in-charge refused to accede to their request, the labourers went on strike.

The Tournapull-Euclid has since been repaired and Mr. Shanmugham has been taken back to work on 1st February 1954."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" எதிர்பாராத விதமாக நேரிட்ட ஆபத்து, அதற்கும் ஷண்முகம்தான் காரணம் என்று அங்கு இருக்கும் Chief Engineer அந்த டிரெயினி ஆபரேடரின் கைகால்களைக் கட்டி பல மணி நேரம் வெய்யிலிலே உருட்டி, வீட்டில் அடைத்து வைத்தது சர்க்காருக்கு ஏதாவது தெரியுமா ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government are convinced that Mr. Shanmugham was responsible for the accident. Sir, at 5 a.m. on 30th January 1954, Sri A. Chinnappa, operator of the Tournapull working in the night shift left the machine to have a cup of tea. During his absence, Mr. Shanmugham, a trainee, who was learning to operate the Tournapull, set the machinery in motion, though, it was reported, that Mr. Chinnappa had instructed Mr. Shanmugham not to meddle with the machinery till he returned after tea.

" I have no information as regards the latter part of the question."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இந்த டிரெயினி ஆபரேட்டரினால் இயந்திரத்திற்கு ஏதாவது பழுது ஏற்பட்டிருக்கலாம். குற்றம் செய்தவர்களை தண்டிப்பதற்கு அதற்காக சட்டதிட்டங்கள் இருக்கும் போது, அதற்குமாறாக அவருடைய கைகால்களைக் கட்டி வெய்யிலிலே தள்ளி, வீட்டிற்குள்ளே பூட்டி வைப்பது முறையா ? சாதாரணமாக குற்றம் செய்தவர்களை போலீஸ் அதிகாரியிடம் ஒப்படைப்பதுதானே முறை. இதையெல்லாம் தீர ஆலோசனை செய்து விசாரணை செய்ய சர்க்கார் முன் வருவார்களா ?"

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THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have no information but I shall look into it."

Representation from East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories Sugarcane Growers' Association, Nellikuppam, about the fixing of fair prices for sugarcane.

* 411 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation on 19th December 1953 from the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories Sugarcane Growers' Association, Nellikuppam, requesting that a fair price should be fixed to sugarcane growers and final accounts should not be settled to ryots for the year 1952–53 before the sugar sales accounts of the factory for the year 1952–53 are checked by an impartial committee consisting of the representatives of the Association, sugar mills and the Government; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The representation was received from the Association under date 19th December 1953, but several were received from it in the course of September-December 1953.

" (*b*) The Director of Agriculture has reported that the additional price determined under Sisma formula was Rs. 5–1–1 per ton (besides the basic minimum price of Rs. 35–11–8) for the Nellikuppam factory area. The appointment of a committee as suggested by the Association was considered unnecessary, in view of the fact that the price fixed can be discussed at the meetings of the Sugarcane Advisory Committee. The Sisma formula is not a statutory formula fixed by the Government of India or by the Madras Government, but one agreed to mutually by the Factory and the growers."

MR. SPEAKER :—" There are still a number of questions to be answered. After question-hour the Education Demand is coming up for discussion and a large number of hon. Members want to participate in the discussion. I do not want that their time should be taken up by extending the question-hour."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" This question of fixing prices under the Sisma formula is causing a lot of headache to sugarcane growers. In view of the importance of the subject, I request the Chair to be kind enough to allow a half-hour debate on it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member wants the question to be taken up to-morrow, I have no objection. Mr. Ramalingam wants it to be taken up to-morrow."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Either it should be taken up to-morrow or half-hour debate should be allowed."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will take up the question for supplementaries to-morrow."